

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-51 (canceled)

Claims 52-67 (canceled)

68. (previously presented) A method of making a nanocomposite, said method comprising:
 - providing an amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite having a layered structure when in a dry state;
 - providing an emulsion of at least one molten polymer; and
 - combining said amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite in a dry state with said emulsion comprising at least one molten polymer to make said nanocomposite such that nanoscale exfoliation of said amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite is established and maintained.
69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said amino-acid is aminobutyric acid.
70. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said amino-acid is aminocaproic acid.
71. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said step of combining is accomplished by an extruder.
72. (currently amended) The method of claim 68, wherein said polymer is selected from polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, polystyrene, high impact polystyrene, styrene acrylonitrile, acrylonitrile-butadienestyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, styrene butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, nitrobutyl rubber, polycarbonate, dynamically cross-linked thermoplastic olefin polymers, polyurethane and polyamides nylon.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said polymer is polypropylene.
74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said polypropylene is a modified polypropylene.
75. (previously presented) The method of claim 74, wherein said modified polypropylene is a maleated polypropylene.
76. (previously presented) The method of claim 74, wherein said modified polypropylene is modified with glycidyl methacrylate.
77. (previously presented) A method of making a nanocomposite, said method comprising:

providing an amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite, said amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite having a layered structure when in a dry state;

adding said amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite to a solvent to form a suspension, slurry or paste to induce exfoliation of said amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite;

providing an emulsion of at least one molten polymer; and

combining said exfoliated amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite with said emulsion comprising at least one molten polymer to make said nanocomposite such that nanoscale exfoliation of said exfoliated amino acid intercalated hydrotalcite is maintained.
78. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said solvent is water.
79. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said solvent is an alcohol.
80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said alcohol is selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, i-propanol, n-butanol, i-butanol.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said solvent is a ketone selected from acetone or methyl ethyl ketone.
82. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said step of combining is accomplished by an extruder.
83. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said amino-acid is aminobutyric acid.
84. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said amino-acid is aminocaproic acid.
85. (currently amended) The method of claim 77, wherein said polymer is selected from polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, polystyrene, high impact polystyrene, styrene acrylonitrile, acrylonitrile-butadienestyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, styrene butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, nitrobutyl rubber, polycarbonate, dynamically cross-linked thermoplastic olefin polymers, polyurethane and polyamides nylon.
86. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said polymer is polypropylene.
87. (previously presented) The method of claim 86, wherein said polypropylene is a modified polypropylene.
88. (previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein said modified polypropylene is a maleated polypropylene.
89. (previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein said modified polypropylene is modified with glycidyl methacrylate.